

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated April 7, 2005. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 will remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the features of previous claims 7 and 4 into claim 1. The changes also are supported by at least page 23, line 23 through page 24, line 4, and page 26, lines 15-25 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment.

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Applicants note the comments in the Office Action concerning the priority document. Accordingly, Applicants file herewith a certified copy of priority document 2000-097,136.

Applicants also note the comments concerning the drawings. Applicants submit herewith a Letter With Formal Drawings and an amended version of each of Figures 2 and 3. The amended versions of Figure 2 and 3 both include the --Prior Art-- designation.

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Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as purportedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action asserts the specification does not describe "said identification identifies each said apparatus and identifies functions performable by each said apparatus together with a description of each function" as recited in claim 1.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended so that the above statement has been removed. As amended, the claims still better reflect the invention. Also, as mentioned above the features added to the claims were recited in previous claims 4 and 7, and are supported by at least page 23, line 23 through page 24, line 4 and page 26, lines 15-25 of the specification.

* * *

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly obvious based on Edson (U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,581) in view of Zintel et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0035621). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 (from which claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 depend) concerns a gateway apparatus. The gateway apparatus is connected to a first network and a second network. It controls the operation of a plurality of apparatuses, which have the same function and which are connected to the first network. The plural apparatuses are controlled depending on instructions directed to the second network by an instructing apparatus connected to the first network. Independent claim 8 concerns a computer-readable medium that includes computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to serve as a gateway apparatus. Such gateway apparatus includes data converting means for converting data from the second network into data available for the instructing apparatus. Depending on the identification information, the data converting means replaces the data from the second network that represents the status of the plural apparatuses and sends the replaced data to the instructing apparatus.

Neither Edson nor Zintel teaches or fairly suggests the above described features of claims 1 and 8. This is conceded in the Office Action with respect to Edson. Zintel discloses a device wherein the status of the browser provided on the network, shows a plurality of different kinds of apparatuses. In contrast, in Applicants' invention, the status of the browser, which shows a plurality of the same kind of apparatuses (e.i., two VTRs or two oven ranges), is provided on the network. See Figs. 11,12, 16 and 17. Accordingly to the Applicants, Zintel cannot teach the user how to operate his desired apparatus when a plurality of the same kind of apparatuses are connected to the network. On the contrary, the gateway apparatus of present claim 1 provides such an interface with the instructing apparatus connected to the first network.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome and requests it be withdrawn.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.072.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 2 Prior Art

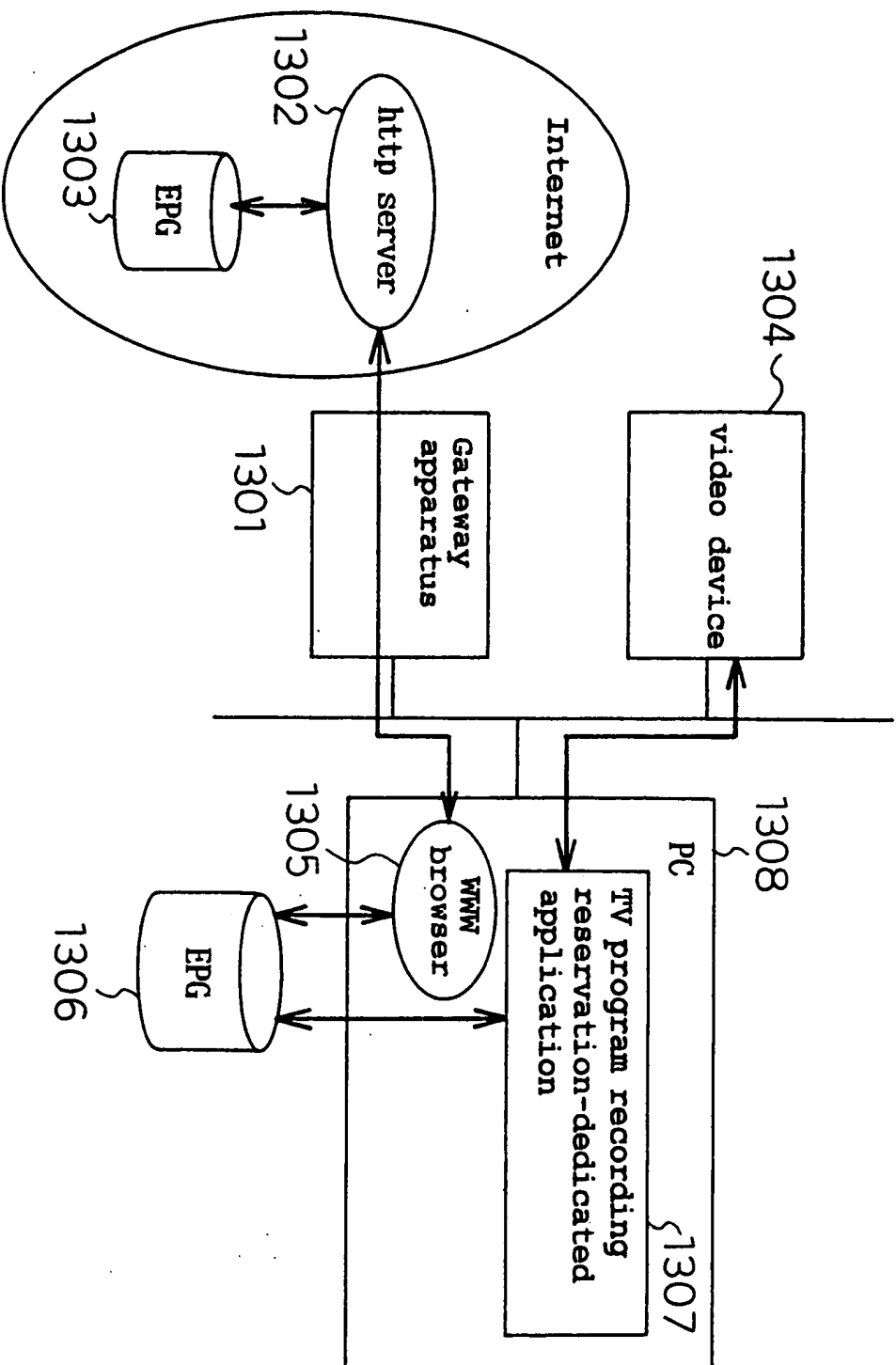


Fig. 3 Prior Art

